

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Date: October 26, 2004

**JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ**

Chairman

**JOHN F. NELSON**

Clerk of the Board

**RONALD A. CHRISTENSEN**

Vice-Chairman

By: Marilyn Brewer

Deputy Clerk

**CRUZ SALAS**

Member

Gila County Courthouse  
Globe, Arizona

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PRESENT: José M. Sanchez, Chairman; Ronald Christensen, Vice-Chairman; Cruz Salas, Member; John F. Nelson, County Manager/Clerk; and, Bryan Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Deputy County Attorney.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session at 10:00 a.m. this date. Supervisor Salas led the Pledge of Allegiance and Jeremy Goodman delivered the Invocation.

At this time each Board member presented a brief summary of current events as allowed by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K). No action was taken on any items that were presented.

Juley Bocardo-Homan, Senior Personnel Analyst, read aloud letters of nomination and presented the October I'MAGE (I'm A Great Employee) awards to the following Gila County employees: Bertina Pratt of Facilities Management, Kathy Tavares and Terri Childers of the Sheriff's Department, and Ken Payne of the Public Works Division.

Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Christensen, seconded by Supervisor Salas, the Board unanimously voted to table agenda item 4, which was to be a presentation of the quarterly Officer Recognition Award to Eric Ellison of DPS by County Attorney Daisy Flores, as Mr. Ellison was unable to attend the meeting.

Steve Besich, Deputy County Manager, requested permission to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for private entities to construct and/or operate a stock car racetrack at the Gila County Fairgrounds. Highlights of Mr. Besich's presentation and ensuing discussion with the Board are as follows:

- History - For several years, many members of the community have been interested in trying to affect a stock car racetrack improvement at the Gila County Fairgrounds. As a result, a committee was formed and meetings were conducted with various members of the community, as well as with the Board of Supervisors. The Gila County Industrial Development Authority paid to have an economic analysis completed by Thomas Warren and Associates, which showed the stock car racetrack would potentially be financially feasible. The committee then contracted with R S Engineering to determine the costs and to develop a design concept for a multi-purpose stock car racetrack facility with other potential uses. Both studies were presented to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors and County Management recently met with Mike Cafiso of Greenburg-Traurig Law Offices and Mark Reader of Stone & Youngberg, LLC, to explore various funding options should the County decide to construct and/or operate its own stock car racetrack. No costs were incurred by the County for this meeting. Mr. Cafiso and Mr. Reader provided an overview of the legal services and investment banking services their companies could provide to the County. At that meeting a number of issues and options were discussed, as well as some of the potential risks of this project. Mr. Cafiso and Mr. Reader suggested that another option would be to draft an RFP and also package the financial analysis, the engineering analysis, along with a site survey of the development area, and advertise this publicly for possible interested parties. Mr. Cafiso and Mr. Reader both offered to assist in drafting an RFP at no cost to the County.
- Current –

1. Supervisor Salas asked Mr. Besich to explain A.R.S. 11-258, which pertains to county fair fund; district fairs; operation of fair by corporation; and county and state appropriations. Mr. Besich advised that a portion of the statute specifies that the County's census determines the amount of funds that can be allocated by the Board from the general fund. He advised that in order to adhere to A.R.S. 11-258, a car race must take place during a county fair. Bryan Chambers advised that before a project such as this could begin, it would require legal approval from the County Attorney's Office at which time a decision would be made to determine whether the County has the statutory authority.
2. Chairman Sanchez stated that he personally believes the County needs to find some way to proceed with this project because it would benefit the local economy in many ways.
3. Vice-Chairman Christensen stated that the information presented to date has indicated a positive outlook for a stock car racetrack, but more information is required. One of his concerns is the bonding capacity of Gila County which deals with the County's population structure and assets. He agrees that the release of the RFP is the next necessary step in this process because it will determine whether the private sector is willing to invest in this project. He stated that a component of the analysis conducted by any potential private investor would be to determine whether the proposed stock car racetrack would be capable of competing with similar racetracks operating in the State.
4. Chairman Sanchez asked Mr. Besich the timeline for responding to the RFP. Mr. Besich estimated that it would take 30 to 60 days or more for the RFP process to be completed. He suggested that Dennis Wood, a racetrack venue developer and consultant to Gila County on this project, and Sherron Lavin, Chairman of the Gila County Fair

- and Racing Commission, be involved in the RPF review process. Mr. Besich stated, *"It is critical to keep community supporters as close to this process as possible."* He advised that Ms. Lavin has been instrumental as far as organizing community support.
5. Chairman Sanchez called on Ms. Lavin for her comments. Ms. Lavin stated, *"I've been involved with the Gila County Fairgrounds since 1969, and going to the private sector does tend to scare me because over the last 35 years, I've heard that some day we might lose the Fairgrounds because of it being sold to the private sector. I understand Mr. Besich's comments, and Mr. Woods has convinced me that it can work. I don't want us to take racers from other tracks, but instead we should partner with them. Let's bring the County together and unite it and give people alternatives because children have nowhere to go and this would give them the opportunity to go to the track because the Fairgrounds is about family and tradition. Don't give our Fairgrounds away or pull the County out of it, but hang on to it and improve it."*
  6. Chairman Sanchez called on Mr. Wood for his comments. Mr. Wood stated that he's been involved in racing most of his life and he became involved with this project because of the enthusiasm and commitment of the people of this area. He said: *"When you bring in the private sector, that doesn't mean it's always good. They could have the money but not the knowledge. I'm totally impressed with the knowledge and backing of the Board, plus the hard work of Mr. Nelson and Mr. Besich. You can't find this type of enthusiasm and knowledge in the city... I plan to stick around and see this project through, for as long as you want me to."*
  7. Vice-Chairman Christensen stated, *"The County has invested a great deal of money into the Fairgrounds, and we need to protect that investment. Just because the Board is looking at private companies to provide the County with numbers and validate our concern doesn't*

*mean we're going to give away anything, but rather enhance what we already have."*

8. Supervisor Salas stated: *"I agree with the comments made by the other Board members. We do have to be careful about this project, but you've also got to be able to take risks and sometimes you succeed and sometimes you fail. Those who have succeeded have taken risks. We have to be careful, especially in our particular situation where we represent the taxpayer, and plan how the revenues will be spent to justify it to the taxpayers. Many years ago I saw the value of the Fairgrounds but was saddened by its condition. There was very little support and no monies were being budgeted, nor were the facilities being maintained. I began investing my constituent money into the facilities, but those funds were not enough so I sought the assistance of others and by working together we now have a fine facility. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done."* Supervisor Salas stated that the County needs to look at all funding options; therefore, he agrees with the release of an RFP to the private sector. In ending his statement, Supervisor Salas advised that he fully supports this project and he asked that the community continue to support the Board in this endeavor.

Upon motion by Supervisor Salas, seconded by Vice-Chairman Christensen, the Board unanimously approved the release of a Request for Proposal for private entities to construct and/or operate a stock car race track at the Gila County Fairgrounds.

John Nelson requested the approval of the Rim Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan (RCCWPP) as part of the Gila County Natural Resources Initiative. A copy of the RCCWPP was distributed to the Board. Mr. Nelson first provided a history of this issue. He advised that the Federal government passed the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) which changed how public lands are managed; to set aside funding to clean up the national

forests; to streamline the legal process to get projects started; and, control the appeal process. The HFRA requires that all governmental organizations adopt a Community Wildlife Protection Program. The RCCWPP is the first such plan for Gila County which primarily applies to the northern region. This RCCWPP encompasses 450 square miles comprising 88 communities and nine fire districts. Seven of those fire districts have been listed in the national registry as severe risks for catastrophic fires. In order to complete the RCCWPP, significant community involvement was required. Eric and Jean Schwennsen of Range Management International held nine community meetings to obtain public input; the Board of Supervisors met twice concerning the NAU Forest Ecosystem Restoration Analysis Program; a meeting was also held with the Council of the Town of Payson; and, this information was also broadcast on the cable stations in the Payson area. The RCCWPP started with the Regional Payson Area Project in which information was gathered from house to house and neighborhood by neighborhood to obtain input on the needs for fire protection. Mr. Nelson provided highlights of the RCCWPP Report explaining the various sections and the risk factor. He advised that the RCCWPP has been reviewed and approved by the nine fire districts in the area; it is now before the Board of Supervisors for approval today; it is scheduled to be approved by the Council of the Town of Payson this Thursday; and, it will then go to the State Forestry Office next week. When all of the above entities approve the RCCWPP, it will be ready to submit as the “finalized” RCCWPP. Mr. Nelson publicly recognized and thanked Eric and Jean Schwennsen, who were not only the project managers for RCCWPP, which took six months or longer to complete, but they were also charged with working with nine fire departments, the Forest Service, State Lands, Gila County, the Town of Payson, various environmental groups and other individuals. Mr. Nelson introduced Eric and Jean Schwennsen of Range Management International who were present to answer any Board questions. Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. & Mrs. Schwennsen for their commitment to this project. Vice-Chairman

Christensen advised that the RCCWPP is necessary and it needs to be funded; however, he has some concern about the reaction of a recent event with the Whispering Pines-Bonita Creek evacuation route, which is a Forest Service road that crosses the East Verde River and is deteriorating rapidly. His concern is that the residents in that community are unwilling to recognize the risk because of the inconvenience it may cause. The Forest Service funded the project, but because of the influence by certain community members and the extent of the complaints reaching as far as Washington, D.C., Vice-Chairman Christensen feels it's now possible the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture may pull the funding on this project. He advised that there is a big need to convince citizens of the importance of these projects and evacuation routes. Vice-Chairman Christensen stated that 1,500 people had to be evacuated from the last fire and if there hadn't been a road many people may not have been able to evacuate the area. In conclusion, he emphasized that the planning process and education of the people is vitally important. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Christensen, seconded by Supervisor Salas, the Board unanimously approved the Rim Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

Joe Mendoza, Development Division Director, requested the acceptance of a proposal by LL Decker & Associates, Inc. to provide professional services to Gila County for a study of Gila County's building permitting process, in an amount not to exceed \$17,000. Mr. Mendoza advised that he met with David Fletcher, Health & Community Services Division Director, and Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, several times to try to streamline and simplify the building permitting process. Some of the issues were resolved; however, it was agreed that many other issues needed to be addressed and each person did not have the available time. The main issue is that the permitting process is lengthy and difficult. Mr. Mendoza advised that his department receives many citizen complaints as is the situation for other counties, cities and towns. The Town of Payson is currently implementing a new process, and Mr. Mendoza advised that he has a copy of the Town's study. He advised that LL

Decker and Associates has agreed to keep consulting costs at a minimum for this project. Mr. Mendoza pointed out one change in the proposal language which is in reference to the 30 Tier 2 stakeholder interviews that states: *“...from unincorporated areas in the vicinity of Payson, Pine/ Strawberry, Young, Tonto Basin...”* The correction needed is in reference to Globe/Miami which should be listed as ‘incorporated’ areas of Globe/Miami rather than unincorporated. Vice-Chairman Christensen thanked Mr. Mendoza for his efforts because the Board of Supervisors has been aware for quite some time that flaws exist with the current building permitting process. Vice-Chairman Christensen stated that he would like it to be a one-stop-shopping process for people coming into the County offices to get a permit and believes this is a very valuable endeavor. Supervisor Salas reiterated Vice-Chairman Christensen’s comments. Chairman Sanchez questioned if this study would cover the Hayden-Winkelman area. Mr. Mendoza advised that building permits are not issued in the Hayden-Winkelman area. Upon motion by Supervisor Salas, seconded by Vice-Chairman Christensen, the Board unanimously accepted the proposal by LL Decker & Associates, Inc. to provide professional services to Gila County for a study of Gila County’s building permitting process, in an amount not to exceed \$17,000.

Steve Stratton, Public Works Division Director, requested the award of Call for Bids No. 091704-1 to approve a Professional Services contract for the Young, Arizona, Aerial Flight Project which will be in three phases, as follows: Digital Orthophotography, Two Foot Contours, and Planimetric Maps. Mr. Stratton requested that one contractor be awarded the project and the phases will be purchased independently. As information to the public, Mr. Stratton advised that at his request the Board rejected all bids submitted for this project at an earlier Board meeting because the bid package contained discrepancies. The Call for Bids has since been revised and re-advertised. Mr. Stratton requested approval for the Digital Orthophotography portion to be purchased now as it is most important for issues related to homeland security and the

Healthy Restoration Forest Act. At a future Board meeting, a request will be made to purchase the Two-Foot Contours, which at that point a partnership will be formed with the Federal Emergency Management Administration to conduct floodplain studies. When those studies have been completed it will expedite the surveying process for the Engineering Department. Requests will also be made in the future to purchase the Planimetric Maps, which will be pertinent to the County's Rural Addressing Program and the Assessor's Office. At this time Mr. Stratton turned the presentation over to Rick Bunger, Gila County Surveyor, who explained the current way in which mapping is now done. Mr. Bunger explained that the bids received this time are all based on using the same procedures. Mr. Stratton advised that three bids were submitted, as follows: Stewart Geo Technologies for \$153,583, Cooper Aerial Surveys for \$155,301, and Kenney Aerial Mapping for \$103,961. Mr. Stratton recommended that the bid be awarded to Kenney Aerial Mapping, Inc. in the amount of \$103,961. Upon motion by Vice-Chairman Christensen, seconded by Supervisor Salas, the Board unanimously awarded Call for Bids No. 091704-1 to Kenney Aerial Mapping, Inc. in the amount of \$103,961.

Paula Medina, Maternal and Child Health Program Coordinator, requested the approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement, Contract No. HG561131, in the amount of \$6,950.00 between the Arizona Department of Health Services and the Gila County Health Department to provide services for teen pregnancy prevention for the period of August 1, 2004, to July 31, 2009. Ms. Medina gave a brief summary of the services that are provided. Upon motion by Supervisor Salas, seconded by Vice-Chairman Christensen, the Board unanimously approved the Intergovernmental Agreement.

David Patterson, Finance Director, requested approval for an increase in the Court Management Information Services FY 2004-2005 budget by \$21,753 due to adjustments in salary and fees to be paid to the Administrative Office of the Courts. The increase will be offset by a decrease in Gila County's contingency budget of \$21,753. Upon motion by Supervisor Salas, seconded

by Vice-Chairman Christensen, the Board unanimously approved the increase in the Court Management Information Services FY 2004-2005 budget in the amount of \$21,753.

Upon motion by Supervisor Salas, seconded by Vice-Chairman Christensen, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda, items A through L, as follows:

- A. Approved Intergovernmental Agreement No. 04-04-ED through June 30, 2005, between the Gila County Schools Superintendent's Office and the Arizona Department of Education to fund professional development activities for teachers in Gila County through the Arizona Reads Program/Reading First Program in the amount of \$29,981.00.
- B. Ratified the Chairman's signature on a Contract with Qwest for a period of 36 months at \$432 per month and a \$50 one-time charge to upgrade the frame relay T-1 line to a point-to-point T-1 line from the Gila County Library District offices to Tucson to upgrade the access to the Polaris System.
- C. Approved a request by the Globe-Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Corporation to rent the Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall on October 28, 2004, for an appreciation dinner for Larry Widner, Globe District Ranger.
- D. Approved a Special Event License Application submitted by the Gila County Championship Rodeo Committee to serve liquor at the Globe-Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce/Economic Development Corporation Dinner to be held on October 28, 2004.
- E. Approved a #11 Series Hotel/Motel (with Restaurant) Liquor License Application (Gila County Order No. 04-05) submitted by Tamara Logsdon for the Rimside Grill located in Pine, Arizona.
- F. Approved Amendment No. 2 to Contract NO. E5205008 between the Arizona Department of Economic Security and the Gila County Health and Community Services Division whereby the REPAC (Re-employment Pre-layoff Assistance Center) Department will rent office space in Safford,

Arizona, to provide dislocated worker services, which represents the elimination of a space in Winslow, Arizona.

- G. Authorized the Chairman's signature on a FY 2004-2005 Direct Grant for Local Health Work in the amount of \$35,407.69 which provides for a public health nurse and/or sanitarian for local health work.
- H. Approved a newspaper publication of a property exchange between the Globe Church of Christ and Gila County for the purpose of creating access to increase the Courthouse parking area.
- I. Approved September 2004 monthly departmental activity reports submitted by the Clerk of the Superior Court and Globe Regional Justice of the Peace.
- J. Approved September 21, 2004, September 28, 2004, September 29, 2004, October 4, 2004, and October 18, 2004, Board of Supervisors' meeting minutes.
- K. Approved finance reports/demands/transfers for the weeks of October 18, 2004, and October 25, 2004.

**October 18, 2004:**

\$426,917.92 was disbursed for County expenses by voucher numbers X142243 through X142312 and X358588 through X358933; \$44,857.17 was disbursed for County expenses by voucher number X358940. The hand-issued warrants listing is as follows: voucher nos. X142241 and X142242 in the amount of \$245.02, voucher no. X358586 in the amount of \$500.00, and voucher no. X358587 in the amount of \$9,481.50.

**October 25, 2004:**

\$559,021.68 was disbursed for County expenses by voucher numbers X142314 through X142435 and X358941 through X359295. The hand-issued warrants listing is as follows: voucher nos. X358935 and X358939 in the amount of \$18,443.75.

- L. Approved personnel reports/actions for the weeks of October 18, 2004, and October 25, 2004.

**October 18, 2004:**

Departure From County Service:

1. Systems Coordinator/Payroll Supervisor – Finance – 10-29-04 – General Fund Barbara Leetham – Hire 02-19-86 – Retirement
2. Attorney – County Attorney – 10-07-04 – General Fund - Matt Conti – Hire 09-11-02 – Resigned for other employment

Hire To County Service:

3. GEST One Stop Disability Specialist – Community Services – 10-18-04 – Grant Fund - Arleen Brice

Temporary Hire To County Service:

4. Sanitarian-in-Training – Health Services – 10-12-04 – Health Services - Fund - Andre' McBride

**SHERIFF'S PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS:**

Departure From County Service:

5. Deputy Sheriff – Globe S.O. – 10-08-04 – General Fund - Mark Gruelle – Hire 02-11-02 – Terminated for cause
6. Detention Officer – Globe S.O. – 10-12-04 – General Fund Thomas Stanneart – Hire 11-23-99 – Separated without prejudice
7. Detention Officer – Globe S.O. – 10-12-04 – General Fund Cynthia Brier – Hire 12-15-03 – Failure to complete probationary period
8. Detention Officer – Globe S.O. – 10-16-04 – General Fund Mary Loehr – Hire 12-16-02 – Resigned for other employment

Position Review:

9. Promotion – Detention Officer – Sergeant to Lieutenant – Globe S.O. – 10-11-04 – General Fund – Violeta Johnson
10. Promotion – Detention Officer – Lead Officer to Corporal – Globe S.O. – 10-18-04 – General Fund – Malcolm Malone
11. Promotion – Detention Officer – Lead Officer to Corporal – Payson S.O. – 10-18-04 – General Fund – Robert Schuler
12. Promotion – Detention Officer – Lead Officer to Corporal – Globe S.O. – 10-18-04 – General Fund – Karen Pollack

**October 25, 2004:**

Departure From County Service:

1. Laborer – Constituent Services II – 10-22-04 – Constituent Services II Fund - Joe Stapleton – Temporary position

Hire To County Service:

2. Attorney – County Attorney – 10-12-04 – General Fund - Edward Leiberman
3. J.P. Court Clerk I – Payson Regional Justice Court – 10-18-04 – General Fund - Dana Houston-Williams
4. Probation Secretary – Probation – 11-01-04 – Adult Intensive Probation Supervision Fund – Yvette Olvera

Temporary Hire To County Service:

5. Probation Aide II – Probation – 11-01-04 – General Fund - Robert Beraun
6. Juvenile Detention Officer – Probation – 11-01-04 – General Fund - Larry Pontel

Departmental Transfer:

7. Office Manager/Executive Secretary to Environmental Health Tech. – Health – 10-18-04 – Health Services Fund – Cindy Shafe
8. Administrative Office Manager – Superior Court to Administrative Assistant III – Public Works Administration – 11-08-04 – General Fund to Public Works Administrative Fund – Kathy Binegar

End Probationary Period:

9. Attorney – County Attorney – 10-17-04 – General Fund - John Franklin

Position Review:

10. Salary Adjustment – G.C.I.T. Director – G.C.I.T. – 10-04-04 – Internal Services Fund - Jeremy Goodman – Market adjustment for I.T. professionals

11. Promotion – System Analyst to WAN Manager - G.C.I.T. – 10-04-04 – Internal Services Fund – Darryl Griffin
12. Salary Adjustment – Network Technician – G.C.I.T. – 10-04-04 – Internal Services Fund – Michael Bredenberg
13. Anniversary Date Increase – 10-18-04 – Teresa Bunker, Deloris Baroldy, Cynthia Romance
14. Reclassification – Administrative Assistant I to Administrative Assistant II – Public Works Administration – 11-01-04 – Public Works Administration Fund – Sherry Grice
15. Reclassification – Scalehouse/Laborer to Operator I/Waste Tire Attendant – Solid Waste Management – 11-02-04 – Enterprise Fund – Michael Ochoa

Request Permission To Post:

16. Road Maintenance Worker II – Payson Public Works – Position vacated by Anthony Quill
17. Administrative Assistant/Office Manager – Payson Health – Position vacated by Cindy Shafe

**SHERIFF'S PERSONNEL ACTION ITEMS**

Position Review:

18. Transfer to change fund codes – Deputy Sheriff – Globe S.O. – 10-18-04 – General Fund – Terry Blevins, Ronald Carillo, Jay Valenzuela
19. Transfer to correct control number – Deputy Sheriff – Payson S.O. – 10-18-04 – Special Revenue Fund – William Newman
20. Transfer to change fund codes – Detention Officer – Globe S.O. – 10-18-04 – General Fund – David Tena

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

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José M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

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John F. Nelson, County Manager/Clerk